

U.S. Serial N . 09/821,687

Attorney D cket N . 081356-0162

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph 3, page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Truncated versions of the protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 are also included in the protein of the invention, as long as they have **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity described above. Since a truncated SYNCRIP lacking amino acids 401-561 in SEQ ID NO: 4 (C-terminal truncated version) loses **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity, it can be said that the region of amino acids 401-561 possesses the **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity and that the region of amino acids 1-400 does not have any effect on the **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity of SYNCRIP. Therefore, a protein having the amino acid sequence of the above-mentioned positions 401-561 (SEQ ID NO: 2) (i.e., the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 lacking amino acids 1-400) is also included in the protein of the invention, for example. Furthermore, a protein comprising the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 may have mutations, such as deletion, substitution ~~of~~ or addition of one to several, preferably one to ten, and more preferably one to five amino acids within the region which does not have any effect on the **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity (i.e., the region of amino acids 1-400 in SEQ ID NO: 4). Further, the above-described truncated proteins which have mutation(s) in one or several amino acids are also included in the protein of the invention, as long as they have **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity.

Please replace paragraph 4, page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Accordingly, genes encoding proteins having the above-described mutation-introduced amino acid sequences, or genes encoding truncated SYNCRIP proteins or mutated versions thereof are also included in the gene of the invention as long as the proteins encoded by them have **RNA Synaptotagmin** binding activity.